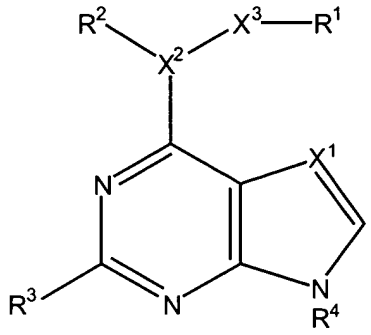
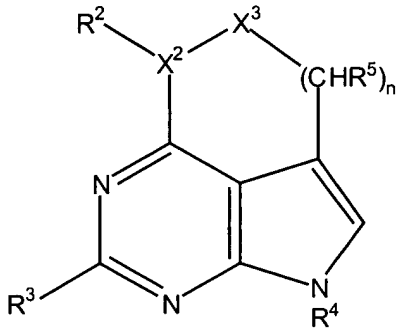
IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a ribonucleoside analogue in accordance with general formula I or II

I



II



where:

n = 1-4, preferably 2-4,

X^1 = N or CH or CR^5

X^2 = N or S or CR^5

X^3 = NR^6 or O or S or R^6 when X^2 = N, or X^3 = NR^6 or R^6 when X^2 = S, and X^3 is absent when X^2 = CR^5

R^1 = H or alkyl or aryl or alkaryl or acyl

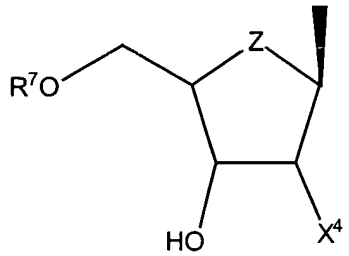
R^2 = H or alkyl or aryl or alkaryl or acyl; when X^2 = S, R^2 is absent;

R^3 = H or NR^5R^6 or $NR^5NR^5R^6$ or NR^5OR^5

R^5 = H or alkyl or alkenyl or alkynyl or aryl or alkaryl or acyl

R^6 = H or alkyl or alkenyl or alkynyl or aryl or alkaryl or acyl and

R^4 = H or



wherein

Z = O or S or CH_2 or CHF or CF_2 or NR^5

X^4 = OH or F

R^7 = H or PO_3^{2-} or $P_2O_6^{3-}$ or $P_3O_9^{4-}$ or a masked phosphate derivative,

in admixture with a physiologically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.

Claim 2 (original): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the ribonucleoside analogue is provided as the base analogue or the ribonucleotide analogue.

Claim 3 (original): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim1 or claim 2, wherein the ribonucleoside analogue comprises a purine analogue.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1, 2 or 3~~ claim 1 which, following administration to a human or animal subject, gives rise to a chemical entity which, inside a cell of the subject, is incorporated into a RNA molecule by a cellular, or preferably viral, RNA polymerase present in the cell.

Claim 5 (original): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4, wherein the cell is infected by an RNA virus, the RNA molecule is an RNA copy of at least part of the viral genomic nucleic acid molecule.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the ribonucleoside analogue is such that Z is O.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein X^2 is N.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-7~~ claim 1, wherein X^3 is O or comprises N.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-8~~ claim 1, wherein X^4 is OH.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein X^2 is N and X^3 is NH_2.

Claim 11 (original): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, comprising a ribonucleoside analogue having the structure shown in Figure 3 or Figure 7.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-9~~ claim 1, wherein X^2 is N, X^3 is O and R^1 is alkyl.

Claim 13 (original): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12, wherein R^1 is methyl or substituted methyl.

Claim 14 (original): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, comprising a ribonucleoside analogue having the structure shown in Figure 11, or the corresponding ribonucleotide analogue.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method of making a pharmaceutical composition suitable for preventing and/or treating an RNA virus infection in a human or animal subject, the method comprising the step of mixing a ribonucleoside analogue in accordance with general formula I or II of claim 1 with a physiologically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (original): A method according to claim 15, comprising the step of combining a plurality of different ribonucleoside analogues, each analogue being in accordance with general formula I or II.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~, comprising the step of including in the pharmaceutical composition a further antiviral agent.

Claim 19 (original): A method according to claim 18, wherein the further antiviral agent is an inhibitor of reverse transcriptase.

Claim 20 (original): A method according to claim 18, wherein the further antiviral agent is active against HIV or other retrovirus.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of claims 15-20~~ claim 15, further comprising the step of packaging the composition in unitary dose form.

Claims 22 and 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method of treating an RNA virus infection in a human or animal subject, the method comprising the step of administering to a subject infected with an RNA virus an effective amount of a ribonucleoside analogue in accordance with general formula I or II as defined in claim 1.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A method according to claim 24, comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutical composition in accordance with ~~any one of claims 1-14~~ claim 1.

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (currently amended): A ~~use according to claim 26~~ method according to claim 37, wherein the ribonucleoside analogue has the structure shown in Figure 2 or is the corresponding ribonucleoside analogue.

Claim 28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-14~~ claim 1 which, when administered to a human or animal subject infected with an RNA virus, inhibits replication of the virus and/or causes an increase in the mutation frequency of the virus.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-14~~ claim 1 which, when administered to a human or animal subject infected with an RNA virus, causes inhibition of LTR-mediated transcription of viral nucleic acid.

Claim 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (currently amended): A composition suitable for application to a plant, for the purpose of preventing and/or treating an RNA virus infection of the plant, the composition comprising an RNA nucleoside analogue conforming to general formula I or II of claim 1.

Claim 33 (original): A composition according to claim 32, further comprising a surfactant and/or a plant penetration enhancer.

Claim 34 (original): A method of preventing and/or treating an RNA virus infection in a susceptible plant, the method comprising the step of applying to the plant an efefctive amount of a composition according to claim 32 or 33.

Claims 35 and 36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (new): A method of treating or preventing an RNA virus infection in a human or animal subject which comprises administering thereto an amount of a composition according to claim 1 sufficient to inhibit LTR-mediated transcription of viral nucleic acid.